

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Political Beliefs of MAO Tse-tung and LIU Shao-ch'i

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. MAO Tse-tung's foreign policy is conditioned by the theory that capitalist nations will act inimically toward a Communist-dominated country. Both he and CHOU En-lai, at least on emotional grounds, believe that this theory may be false with respect to China, and are willing to develop relations with the Western Powers, but by so doing they would imperil their friendship with the USSR.
  2. The theory that China's foreign policy must be based on a united front between Communist nations against the capitalistic West is held by the pro-Soviet faction in the CCP, which is headed by LIU Shao-ch'i. This group holds that China must subordinate her national requirements to those of the USSR, because it is necessary to help the USSR in its role as the citadel of world revolution. This view is very seldom expressed in print, but it is implicit in all propaganda on Sino-Soviet relations. Propaganda, under the People's Government, is largely, but not entirely, under the control of the pro-Soviet faction.
  3. The position of the pro-Soviet faction in the CCP is difficult to determine, and because the faction is so strong, MAO cannot act independently of it, particularly in the field of foreign relations. MAO in order to counter this influence has placed persons personally loyal to him into positions of importance. These persons are generally known in CCP circles as Yen'an Communists.
  4. One of the areas in which MAO has recently gained some ground against the pro-Soviet faction is Manchuria. Shortly after the Communist occupation of Peiping, the pro-Soviet faction secured the appointment of LIN Piao, whom they regarded as one of them, as head of the Northeast People's Government. Later, LIN, possibly alienated by MAO, made known his belief that China's foreign policy should not be influenced by any foreign nation. The pro-Soviet faction then withdrew their support of LIN, and he was given his present appointment in central China.
  5. During the period when it was thought that LIN would go to Manchuria, MAO sent his own people into the area, and gained considerable influence through the help of KAO Kang, who relies on MAO for guidance and follows his general

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policy on Chinese nationalism. The pro-Soviet faction is well aware of this friendship. Two Chinese industrialists, recently returned to Hong Kong from survey trips to Manchuria, report independently that Chinese officials there stated in private conversations that the Soviets are dissatisfied with their position in that area.

6. The present attitude of the Communist government toward the United States is strongly influenced by the factors outlined above. The pro-Soviet faction is deliberately creating incidents calculated to hamper working relationships with the western powers and will do all it can to consolidate Soviet influence in China.